

## Minutes of the December 2, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

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Call to Order and Flag Salute at 3:30 pm by Mayor Serio.

Council in Attendance: Serio, Bunting, Langan, Tingle, Carmean, and Smallwood  
Absent: Weistling (excused)

### **Presentation - Center for the Inland Bays Stormwater Management – Chris Bason, Acting Executive Director**

#### **President's Report**

- Mayor Serio reported that the search for a new Town Manager continues. The process should be complete within the next 30 days.
- Mayor Serio announced that Dan Heller, Supervisor Public Works, will retire at the end of the month. His last day in the office will be December 9, 2011. The Town is advertising for a new employee.
- The Council will light the Town Christmas tree immediately following this meeting.

#### **Topics for Discussion and Possible Action**

a) Resolution #54-2011 Arbor Day 2012 – Council Member Carmean

Mrs. Carmean asked that the resolution be placed into the record. Arbor Day in Fenwick Island is April 27, 2012. The Town has been a Tree City USA for six years and the designation of Arbor Day confirms the Town's commitment to the environment.

Motion to accept Resolution #54-2011 Arbor Day 2012 – Council Member Carmean

Second – Council Member Langan

DISCUSSION – None

Vote: All in favor (6-0)

Resolution #54-2011 Arbor Day 2012 passed

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to Approve the Minutes of October 28, 2011 Meeting - Council Member Bunting

Second: Council Member Carmean

DISCUSSION - None

Vote: All in favor to accept the minutes (6-0)

Minutes approved

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Council Member Bunting advised that the Town is slightly over budget in printing/advertising due to the recent need to advertise the Town Manager position.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report – Council Member Tingle

Second – Council Member Carmean

DISCUSSION

Council Member Smallwood asked about interest received from funds deposited with The Bank of Ocean City.

Council Member Bunting advised that, because of the early meeting this month, the figures have not yet been received from the bank. Council Member Bunting also noted that, due to electrical work at the new Public Safety Building, the solar panels have been disconnected.

Vote: All in favor to accept the Treasurer's report (6-0)

Treasurer's Report accepted.

#### **Town Manager Report:**

- Interim Town Manager, Tom Wontorek, reported that an advertisement has been prepared to add a new member to the Public Works Department staff. Deadline for application is December 19, 2011.

#### **Department Reports:**

- Building Official – Patricia Schuchman advised that her report is included in the meeting packet.
  - Permit revenues have increased and are expected to increase in the coming months. Business license renewals were sent in mid-November. License applications/fees are due January 1 or

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prior to conducting business in town. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, there are 12 Resident Merchant, 68 Outside Contractor and 42 Rental renewal licenses paid.

- Mrs. Schuchman reported that she attended a meeting conducted by the Delaware Sea Level Rise Committee. Important information and literature is available for the public and attached to the Council Meeting Packet. She encouraged citizens to complete the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible.
- Mrs. Schuchman attended a FEMA Region 3 meeting which discussed updates to the FIRM maps. The coastal area is being re-mapped and a preliminary map should be available this summer. She expects and expanded "VE" zone along the ocean front and redesignation of the current "AO" zone to a possible "AE" zone (VE = waves > 3'; AE + waves 1'-3'). New construction will be required to build at a higher flood elevation if this change occurs.
- Public Works - Report included in meeting packet.
  - Mayor Serio announced that, in recognition of Dan Heller's service, the Town is purchasing a paver for the Town Park.
- Beach Patrol – No report.
- Fenwick Island Police Department – Chief Boyden reported that the radar sign at the north end of Town has been replaced. As a result of recent commercial burglaries, the Chief has reviewed security procedures with all businesses in town. Security features include but are not limited to: deadbolts, lighting, motion sensors and alarms. Chief Boyden asks that suspicious activity be reported immediately to his department. NIXLE is operational again and Chief Boyden encourages everyone to sign up for this free service.

## Committee Reports:

- Beach Committee – No report
- Environmental Committee – Council Member Carmean advised that the Committee is exploring topics and speakers for programs in the coming year. The next meeting is January 19, 2012 at 2:30 PM.
- Public Safety Building – Council Member Langan estimates that the project is 40% complete. He asked that the public not visit the area as it remains an active construction site.

**Planning Commission:** Report included in Council packet

## Charter & Ordinance – Council Member Langan

Council Member Langan advised that the second reading of Chapter 120 Stormwater Management has been postponed until the January 27, 2012 regular meeting of Council in order to allow the C&O more time to explore the topic. Mayor Serio encouraged all those interested in the subject to attend the next C&O meeting on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 9:30 AM.

- Robert Clark (1100 Schulz Rd) – addressed Council regarding the proposed change to require downspouts empty onto the land and not directly into the canals. Mr. Clark expressed his belief that the cost to rectify the run-off problems is not so simple or inexpensive as the public is being led to believe. He believes that a solution to the problem is not so easy in this area because the land on the bayside was reclaimed and is not so forgiving as the land composition in other parts of the town.
- Bill Schumann (902 Wright St) – asked Council to look at other possible solutions to the problem before deciding to make changes.

**Old Business** – Council Member Smallwood advised that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot was well-attended and netted approximately \$1600 to benefit the New Friends of the Fenwick Lighthouse.

**New Business – No Action to be Taken – None**

## Public Participation:

- Ted Simpler (31 Bayard St EXT) – addressed Council regarding his concerns with the proposed stormwater management ordinance change. He recommended that the town continue to allow drainage directly into the canals. To improve the quality of the water emptying into the bay he recommends: discontinue killing

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vegetation along the roadway; discontinue the practice of placing stone along the sides of the road; convert the streets ends from pipes to sediment traps; use of silt fencing; allow swimming pools to drain directly in the sanitary sewer only after the water has been allowed to sit for several days while the chlorine dissipates into the air. Mayor Serio thanked him for suggesting concrete solutions to the problem.

- Lynn Andrews (1205 Schulz Rd) – asked if the Town Manager was able to gather information regarding the cost/time to remove, clean and store the mobi mats. Mr. Wontorek advised that it appears to take 2 ½ days to complete the process with the current number of mats. More mats will take more time. He is exploring other alternatives to the mobi mats and understands that a seminar will be held in Rehoboth Beach sometime in February or March for all beach communities on easier ways to remove and clean them.
- Gail Warburton (10 W Farmington St) – asked if the Chapter 120 Stormwater Management ordinance would affect commercial properties; Mayor Serio noted that the C&O will take that under advisement.
- Council Member Smallwood noted the passing of Art Libby and Ken Keller; Council Member Langan noted the passing of Dale Taylor.
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### **Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

- Mayor Serio announced all upcoming meetings and events.

Motion to adjourn – Council Member Tingle

Second – Council Member Bunting

Vote: All in favor (6-0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Agnes DiPietrantonio, Town Clerk

For Diane Tingle, Secretary